

Council Plan 2021–2025, Aligns to Community Vision Theme 2. Live. Access. Connect Section 2.6 Prepare and implement a playground strategy following the adoption of the Open Space Strategy, and Theme 5. Strong. Health. Safe, Section 5.1.1 Seek external funding for the preparation and implementation of an Open Space Strategy

Nature Based Play Space



The opportunity:

Strathbogrie Shire Council and the Euroa community has a vision. We want to develop an intergenerational destination nature-based play space in our town that is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Modern life has removed the traditional nature play many of today's adults experienced as children.

This project will help re-engage children's relationship with nature by bringing it back to the play and learning places of everyday life.

Euroa is the perfect place located two hours from Melbourne. With a Tesla Electric Charge station, this proposal will not only support residents of the Shire with an exciting place to meet, but also those arriving at our Traveller's Rest and others who stop to charge their vehicle.



Nature Based Play Space

The benefits:

A destination playground would create a place for families wanting a genuine child and youth friendly place to stop with a unique offering.

This community supported project will offer improved liveability and help strengthen Euroa and our Shire's reputation as a destination.

Increasing economic development with an estimated linger time of about 20 to 60 minutes providing local cafes and businesses with greater visitation and tourism expenditure.



Research indicates that, when children play and learn in nature, they do so with more energy, engagement, imagination, and cooperation than in wholly artificial environments.

Sensory stimulation derived from interacting with natural environments allows children to learn with sight, smell, touch and sound.

Creating natural environments supports children to become environmentally engaged and show respect for the environment, and it is well known that physical activity is greatly beneficial for children's cognitive development, health and wellbeing.

From a sensory garden to explore, rocks to clamber over, to logs to balance on, the possibilities to interact with nature and the environment are endless.

It is proposed the all-abilities play space will be designed with the people who will use it most. This means extensive consultation with children, young people, families, grandparents and carers.

Cover image.
Wangaratta Children's Garden

2 and 3. Mansfield Botanic Park Playground

1, 4 and 5. Wangaratta Children's Garden



The ask:

One.

Council invites the Victorian Government to commit \$1.5 million to design and deliver a nature-based playground in Euroa.



Profile:

“As Mothers with young children we know and understand the importance of encouraging playtime in the natural environment of where we live.

Euroa and neighbouring areas are experiencing a baby boom at present and population growth in children aged 6 years and under.

It is important that we meet the developmental needs and demands of this generation and build the infrastructure to provide this active and inclusive space for everyone to enjoy.

We have observed visitors to the township pull-up at the current playgrounds which are restrictive in age, size and sensory applications, and our community wants us to address this.”

1. Mansfield Botanic Park Playground



“There is great need and support for a nature-based playground in Euroa and we know the perfect setting among the green grass and leafy trees of Seven Creeks Park.”

Cr Kristy Hourigan and Cr Sally Hayes-Burke
Strathbogie Shire Council